



For Immediate Release

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FAJC: EPA's Final RVOs Endanger Union Jobs, U.S. Energy Security

"EPA's final rule perpetuates the broken status quo...now, all eyes are on Congress to protect America's domestic refining capacity and independent refinery jobs nationwide."

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Today, the Fueling American Jobs Coalition released the following statement after the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released final biofuel blending levels for 2023, 2024, and 2025 under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). EPA once again set unachievable renewable volume obligations (RVOs) based on the federal Department of Energy's transportation fuel demand assessment for those years. As a result, independent refiners will be forced to continue spending more on Renewable Identification Number (RIN) credits than all other operational costs combined.

"President Biden has doubled down on a broken federal regulation that endangers tens of thousands of union jobs and our nation's energy security. The Biden administration promised to put the Renewable Fuel Standard 'back on track' and provide more certainty and predictability for all stakeholders involved. Unfortunately, today's announcement ensures the opposite by failing to set achievable ethanol blending levels. Instead, it sets ethanol blending levels nearly a billion gallons more than the federal government's projected transportation fuel demand, ensuring RIN prices will stay astronomically high, benefitting multinational oil companies, Wall Street traders, and other speculators at the expense of independent refiners.

"America's independent refineries employ tens of thousands of high-quality, family-sustaining jobs nationwide. Refinery workers touch every corner of our economy – fueling our cars, planes, military fleets, and entire industries. When Russia's war on Ukraine destabilized world energy markets, refinery workers increased production to reinforce American energy independence. Now thousands of union jobs and our nation's domestic refining capacity are at risk.

"The Biden administration is fully aware that America's independent refiners are spending more on RINs than on payroll, benefits, utilities, and maintenance expenses combined, as well as raising prices on motorists. Countless independent refinery workers have hoped President Biden would seek long-lasting, commonsense solutions to fix the RFS. A chorus of people in Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ohio, and Michigan – union leaders, business owners, state lawmakers, and even members of Congress – have urged President Biden to fix the RFS. Instead, EPA's final rule perpetuates the broken status quo instead.

"Now, all eyes are on Congress to protect America's domestic refining capacity and independent refinery jobs nationwide. A bipartisan group of members of Congress is developing legislation that would curb the soaring RFS compliance costs we can expect from this final rule. We commend their ongoing efforts, which are more important now than ever. We encourage members to introduce the legislation soon."

The RFS currently functions as a hidden tax on domestic fuel supplies, adding an estimated [\\$30 billion](#) to fuel costs and [20 to 30 cents per gallon](#) to pump prices. While the RFS causes Americans to pay more for gasoline and diesel,

the program's RINs credit compliance system has [enriched major retailers and multi-national oil conglomerates](#).

The RFS has also significantly contributed to the loss of domestic refining capacity. Runaway RIN costs played a role in the eliminating over [300,000 barrels per day](#) of domestic refining output, which has not been sufficiently replaced with new renewable fuel production, leading to [critical fuel shortages](#). In addition, 10 refineries have closed since 2019 due in part to RFS compliance costs. This dramatic slash in production has driven consumer fuel prices [exponentially higher](#), threatening a persistent fuel supply crisis.

In December 2022, Sens. Casey (D-Pa.) and Coons (D-Del.), and Reps. Scanlon (D-Pa.), Boyle (D-Pa.), Norcross (D-N.J.), and Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.) announced they are [developing legislation](#) that would create a conventional biofuel waiver credit under the RFS, helping to stabilize RIN costs through a fixed-price RIN. Under the bill, independent refiners could purchase a fixed-priced RIN to comply with the conventional ethanol mandate, which would alleviate the speculation that forces RIN prices to be artificially high, with traders being the primary beneficiaries and the government and farmers gaining nothing.

The Fueling American Jobs Coalition is a coalition of union workers and independent American oil refiners fighting for a commonsense fix to the EPA's flawed Renewable Fuel Standard. The need for significant reform has only grown over the past few years as the cost of purchasing Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs) to comply with the RFS has grown increasingly volatile, threatening some refiners' survival. For additional information, visit www.fuelingusjobs.com.

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